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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
LOUIS RAYMOND FALCE, ET AL.
Serial No. (UNKNOWN)
Filed: (FILED HEREWITH)
For: **ION THRUSTER HAVING A
HOLLOW CATHODE
ASSEMBLY WITH AN
ENCAPSULATED HEATER,
AND ITS FABRICATION**

Date: February 2, 2000

Group Art Unit: (Unknown)

Examine: (Unknown)

TC530 U.S. PTO

09/496889



02/02/00

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The references cited on the enclosed form PTO-1449 (copies of references enclosed) may be material to the examination of the above-identified patent application and are, therefore, being submitted in compliance with the duty of disclosure defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

Attention of the Office is also drawn to the application identified below. This application is related to the above-identified patent application and is being filed concurrently herewith:

1. Patent Application entitled "Ion Thruster Having Grids Made of Oriented Pyrolytic Graphite", inventors: Louis Raymond Falce and John R. Beattie, filed: (CONCURRENTLY HEREWITH) Serial No. (UNKNOWN) (Attorney Docket No. PD-990112). This related application as well as the

present application are assigned to the same assignee (Hughes Electronics Corporation).

US Patent No. 5,924,277 is discussed on page 4 of the specification.

The article by Reaves and Jarrett describes a directly heated tungsten dispenser cathode for ion laser application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has recently been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that this citation constitutes prior art.

Respectfully submitted,
LOUIS RAYMOND FALCE, ET AL.

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